

REPORTS OF MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS.

California Academy of Medicine.

Abstract of a preliminary report of a case of Bone Filling, by Thos. W. Huntington, M. D., at the meeting of the California Academy of Medicine, Aug. 25, 1903.

The patient was a male aged 20, who for two months had suffered from a subacute osteomyelitis of carpal end of right radius. Symptoms present were pain, swelling, tenderness and almost complete suspension of function of wrist, hand and fingers.

The bone was opened over the area shown by the X-Ray to be affected. A cavity containing about two drachms of pus was emptied and carefully sterilized. The cavity was then packed with granular calcined bone powder and the wound closed. A small amount of the filling extruded and remained buried beneath the soft tissues. This caused pressure necessitating removal of the skin sutures. The patient was exhibited on the sixteenth day after operation, showing a well-healed wound. Pain and tenderness had disappeared and joint and hand function fully restored.

Reference was made to the literature bearing upon this method of treatment of bony defects; to the work done by Dr. W. I. Terry in a similar direction, also to the published cases of Dr. Julius Rosenstirn in which plaster of paris was employed for the purpose of supplying bone defects.

The regular meeting of the Academy for September was held on the evening of the 22d. Dr. W. W. Kerr presented a patient, German, miner by occupation, 40 years of age, who had Hodgkin's disease. He had had gonorrhea and more recently syphilis. Glands in the various triangles began to enlarge some five years ago. The glandular enlargement was very general. The liver and spleen were enlarged and somewhat tender. Spasmodic pains at night were very severe and were at first relieved with hypodermatics of 1-100th of a grain of nitroglycerin. This caused severe headaches and was discontinued. Potassium iodid was used and occasionally mixed treatment; red corpuscles ranged from about 2,000,000 to nearly 3,000,000; there was no leucosytosis. Methyl blue was substituted for nitroglycerin and relieved the pain without producing the headaches. Dr. Kerr also exhibited a patient who three years ago had come under observation, having marked anemia. About a year ago he again came under observation and a tumor was discovered in the right lumbar region. The man had a dilated stomach, marked secondary anemia (hemoglobin running as low as 20% or less) with 1,605,000 red corpuscles, but no unusual increase in the white cells. The mass in the lumbar region is hard, but little tender; smooth, and is behind the colon, as determined by inflating that viscus. There is generally a trace of albumen in the urine, but nothing more. The possibility of some lesion of the right kidney was suspected. General condition has improved and there are now about 3,500,000 red cells.

The case of Hodgkin's disease was discussed by Drs. Ophüls, Brown and Cheney, Dr. Brown suggesting the possibility of tubercular infection being the cause of the disease.

The case presented by the second patient was discussed by Drs. Tait, Kerr, Huntington, Brown, Cheney, Kugeler, Brunn and Barbat. Dr. Tait suggested that the mass might be a cystic kidney of the adult type, though there were no marked kidney symptoms. Dr. Huntington suggested the advisability of a diagnostic incision under cocaine anesthesia. Dr. Brown saw the man a year ago and at

that time thought the mass to be an osteo-sarcoma arising from the pelvis; he thought the anemia due to the stomach trouble and not at all influenced by the tumor. Dr. Cheney thought the surgeons should be called in to make a diagnosis, and that perhaps the stomach trouble might be relieved by removal of the mass, and possibly reduplication of the stomach wall. Dr. Kugeler suggested a mixed retro-peritoneal tumor. Dr. Brunn thought it might be a tumor of the adrenal. Dr. Barbat called attention to the possibility of having very grave involvement of the kidney without urinary symptoms. Dr. Kerr said that operative interference had been suggested to the patient, who declined it, and that it was not urged for the reason of his general anemia condition, few red cells and small percentage of hemoglobin. Operation could do little good, for if the tumor is malignant it is inoperable and if not it is doing no harm. Diagnosis could be made quite as well, ultimately, at the post mortem, though he thought there could be no objection to a diagnostic incision under cocaine.

Dr. H. Kugeler read a paper on and presented a specimen of Membranous Dysmenorrhea. The paper was largely historical in nature and gave a general resume of the subject as treated by various authors.

Dr. J. Henry Barbat read a paper reporting the occurrence of two cases of Strangulated Appendicitis in Femoral Hernia. The paper was discussed by Drs. Tait and Ophüls. Dr. Ophüls called attention to the presence of bacilli other than the colon bacillus in the fetid pus in such cases. Dr. Tait made a similar comment and suggested that the odor was probably due to the presence of anaerobes. He doubted the advisability of considering the appendix stump a suitable means of closing the canal. Dr. Barbat said that the appendix had been in the canal for nine years and the stump was firmly imbedded at the time of operation; there was nothing else to do but to so use it. Meeting then adjourned.

Fresno County.

The Fresno County Medical Society met in regular monthly session on September 1st, at the offices of Dr. Manson, the president, Dr. E. J. Coney in the chair, a large number of the members being in attendance.

Under the regular order of business, Dr. Hare brought to the attention of the Society the importance of making every effort to increase our membership. He cited the rapid increase in membership in the State organization since the re-organization plan was effected, and laid stress upon the advantage that would accrue to medical legislation when we are solidly united. He thought that possibly our bars of admission had been a little too high, heretofore. Several members spoke upon this latter point, calling attention to the fact that there is a standing invitation to all regular physicians in good standing to join us. We are now the guardians of the A. M. A., and it should be our endeavor to maintain a high moral and professional standing among our members.

Digressing somewhat, it might be well to state that this Society numbers 40 members, active and enthusiastic. There are very few, perhaps not more than 10, regular physicians in the county who do not hold membership with us. The attendance at the monthly meetings is always large, the society meeting with the various members, from month to month. It has long been and still is the custom, for the

physician, at whose offices the society is to meet, to entertain the members socially, after the regular order of business has been finished. Banquets, lunches and refreshments are monthly occurrences, following the reading and discussion of the paper of the evening. These little spreads bring us into harmony; an hour is spent in social converse, and the best of good fellowship prevails. I know of no other society the members of which work in such perfect accord as in our local organization. Fresno is noted for the unity and good feeling among its physicians, and it would be well if other societies would follow this custom of entertaining their brother practitioners occasionally. Our competitors are not so degenerate as we are often led to think. A better acquaintance often dissipates previous erroneous and unkind impressions. Of course, where the society is large, the idea of entertaining each month is impracticable, but where the membership is 50 or under, I know of nothing better to promote and maintain the spirit and feeling that should exist among the devotees of our noble profession.

A communication from the secretary of the State Society, asking this body to nominate one of our members, to be appointed by the President of the State Society, as a member of the National Auxiliary, Congressional and Legislative Committee, was read. Dr. Geo. A. Hare was nominated.

The San Joaquin Valley Medical Society meets in Fresno the second Tuesday in October. This matter was brought to the attention of the society, and a committee of three was appointed to make arrangements for the proper entertainment of the visiting physicians.

The paper of the evening was entitled "Carcinoma of the Breast" and was read by Dr. J. D. Davidson, the author choosing this subject because it is so "fatal to human life and so alarmingly on the increase." The disease has been known since the earliest times, and many theories advanced for its causation and many measures adopted for its cure, but as yet we can offer nothing definite and satisfactory either as to etiology or cure. However, the amount of study being given to this subject by pathologists and clinicians leads one to believe that our efforts will soon be crowned with success.

The author states that 80 per cent of all tumors of the breast are carcinomatous, and three and nine-tenths per cent sarcomatous. "A very small per cent is left for benign tumors, and if we should pronounce every tumor of the breast that comes to us, malignant, our percentage of correct diagnoses would be better than our average now of all cases treated. Should you find a hard lump on either the upper or lower outer quadrant, near the nipple, and it is retracted and dimpled, together with enlarged axillary glands, pronounce it malignant. It makes little difference which plan of treatment is pursued, 60% of these cases will be dead in two years." After mentioning, only to condemn, all other measures now used, the author states that the knife, used early, is our only hope. The X-Ray was classed with other remedies, as a failure.

A general discussion followed.

The society adjourned to meet with Dr. P. N. Russell at the October session.

ANGUS B. COWAN, Secretary.

Humboldt County.

The regular meeting of the Humboldt County Medical Society was held at Ferndale, Tuesday evening, Sept. 8th, with a good attendance. In the absence of Dr. R. Felt, the president, Dr. Delamere of Ferndale presided.

The fee bill committee asked for further time in which to complete a fee bill and were given until next meeting to make a final report.

A communication was read from the Secretary of the State Society, asking this society to name a member to be appointed by the president of the State Society on the National Auxiliary Congressional and Legislation Committee of the American Medical Association. The request was placed before the society, and Dr. G. N. Drysdale of Eureka was named and the Secretary instructed to notify the Secretary of the State Society.

A communication was read from Dr. Stanley of Hydesville, stating that a man by the name of Nelson was practicing in Hydesville without a license, and the Secretary was instructed to investigate, and to notify the District Attorney of the facts.

Clinical cases were reported by Drs. C. C. Falk and Gaynor. The papers of the evening were read by Drs. Loofbourrow of Eureka and Horel of Arcata.

Dr. Loofbourrow headed his paper "Redwood Poisoning" and stated that lacerated or punctured wounds caused by redwood splinters were more apt to be followed by severe cellulitis than wounds from other kinds of wood in this county, and that it was particularly noticeable in the spring and early summer. He cited several cases giving the history and treatment. The treatment is similar to that of cellulitis from any other cause. In advanced cases free incision followed by continuous irrigation or dressings kept moist with some antiseptic. Lately he had been using acetozone with good result.

Dr. Horel's paper was on "Legitimate Medicine" and dealt with the duty of physicians to their patients, and to one another. He deprecated the tendency toward prescribing proprietary preparations, and urged the necessity of studying *materia medica*. His paper will probably be read again at some meeting when there is a full attendance.

G. N. DRYSDALE, Secretary.

Napa County.

The Napa County Medical Society met on the 1st of September with President Elmer E. Stone in the chair.

The meeting was very interesting and profitable and all those present took part in the discussion of a paper read by Dr. Upton of Napa on "Ductless Glands."

At adjournment every member expressed himself as well pleased with the meeting.

The new society has affiliated with the State Society with the following list of members: L. M. Pulsifer, W. E. Upton, M. A. Ap Lynne, W. H. Leach, E. E. Stone, B. Shurtleff, E. Z. Hennessey, Napa; W. W. Rumsey, Yountville; W. H. Porter, H. L. Parish, Calistoga; W. L. Plodgett, Oat Hill; F. Beyersdorf, Pope Valley; C. E. Winslow, Bartlett Springs; J. L. Arbogast, J. H. Hawkins, D. E. Osborne, St. Helena, and Wm. J. G. Dawson, Glen Ellen.

J. L. ARBOGAST, Secretary.

Orange County.

The Orange County Medical Association met in their permanent meeting rooms in the Santa Ana Library building for the first time Tuesday, Sept. 1.

The paper of the evening was read by Dr. Gofdon; subject, "Puerperal Eclampsia."

The society is now making arrangements for a medical library, which will be placed in the rooms set apart for their meetings as soon as suitable cases can be secured.

We have the entire library of the late Dr. Crane,

which, with about 100 volumes contributed by the members, will give us a good nucleus to build upon.
H. S. GORDON, Secretary.

Sacramento County.

The Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement met in regular session Sept. 15, at the office of Dr. James. The president, Dr. Ross, presided, and the following members answered the roll call. Drs. Baldwin, Cox, Dufficy, Hatch, Henderson, James, Krull, McKee, Lindsay, Nichols, Parkinson, Poore, Ross, G. C. Simmons, G. L. Simmons, S. E. Simmons, Sutliff, Strader, Stevenson, Twitchell, G. A. White, John White and Wright.

By request of the secretary of the State Society, a representative of the society was chosen to act on the National Auxiliary, Congressional and Legislative Committee of the A. M. A.—Dr. G. L. Simmons was the unanimous choice of the Society.

Under the head of "Report of Cases" the following were reported:

Dr. McKee was called to see a young lady who had fallen, striking her abdomen; the injury was followed by nausea and vomiting; after the second day these symptoms were much alleviated and patient seemingly began to get well, but on the third day patient suddenly became worse; seemed to be in a state of collapse. Dr. White was called in to see her, but the patient was in such a weakened condition that it was thought best not to operate. Patient lived 'till sixth day. At post-mortem examination the spleen was found displaced into the pelvic cavity; enlarged and congested, and gangrenous in places; all the viscera with which it came in contact were also gangrenous.—The immediate cause of death was strangulation of the spleen.

Dr. White reported a case of a young man who fell from a wagon seat just behind the horses; the horses became frightened and kicked, striking the man in abdomen. On examination two contused areas were found on abdominal wall; there were signs of collapse, so abdominal wall was opened; the jejunum was found punctured and considerable undigested matter from gut was found in abdominal cavity;—the cavity was cleansed and the perforation sutured. Patient is doing well and has chance for recovery.

The paper of the evening was read by Dr. James, on "The Diagnosis and Treatment of Chronic Interstitial Nephritis." The discussion was opened by Drs. G. A. White and W. K. Lindsay; Dr. Jessie Wheeler of Sacramento and Dr. F. W. Harms of Galt were elected members of the society.

J. W. JAMES, Secretary.

San Bernardino County.

Needles, Cal., Sept. 7, 1903.

To the Editor of the State Journal—Our secretary (of San Bernardino County Medical Society) having recently been appointed County Physician, finds himself too much hampered by his new duties to write news items for publication in our JOURNAL; but we are all anxious to be known to you, and to have you know that we appreciate your efforts in our behalf, while we commend the style and make-up of the JOURNAL. Our society meets every second Wednesday of each month at San Bernardino the county seat. The officers are: James P. Booth of Needles, president, and J. H. Meyer of San Bernardino, secretary. On account of my remote location (250 miles east of San Bernardino), I am deprived of the pleasure and profit of many meetings, but I am none the less interested in the welfare and prosperity of the Society. I hope every member

will subscribe for the JOURNAL, and, as many interesting and valuable papers are read at the meetings, I trust some of the best of them will be forwarded to you for publication. Please send me bill for the JOURNAL and I will remit at once. Wishing success and prosperity, I am yours very truly,

JAMES P. BOOTH, M. D.

San Francisco County.

The regular monthly meeting of the San Francisco County Medical Society was held on Tuesday evening, September 8, President Kengla in the chair. In the absence of Dr. Barbat, secretary, Dr. Alderson, assistant secretary, was at the desk.

The evening's program was opened by Dr. Thos. W. Huntington, who presented a patient demonstrating the transposition of the fibula. The patient was a young boy and was presented to show the operation in its first stage. The doctor explaining that at a future date he hoped to show the complete result.

Dr. Wallace I. Terry said that union of upper end of tibia and fibula is somewhat against his previous experience. With regard to use of bone ash, he was unable to find any trace of it upon examination some time after operation.

Dr. S. J. Hunkin referred to a case where fibula was transplanted on astragalus. The patient, a boy, comes back at least once a year with his foot deformed. When brace was removed the foot turned.

Dr. M. Krotoszyner read a paper, "Observations on the Prostate Gland in its Relation to Gonorrhea."

Dr. Grosse thought it very important to call attention to the involvement at the prostate in gonorrhea. He obtained results in vibratory massage.

Dr. Rigdon designated it as "a burning question". He referred to the frequency with which the disease extended beyond the prostate through wandering follicles.

Dr. Rosenstirn said gonococci lodge for a long time in the glands. Secretions show this after gonococci supposed to have died out.

Dr. Winterberg cited cases where disease showed in progeny. Said in old cases the pus cells were not always destroyed.

Dr. Krotoszyner said it was a mistake to suppose gonococci would not die out—they do; as microscopic examination proves.

Dr. H. D'Arcy Power read a paper on "Rodent Ulcer with Report of Case." The doctor exhibited photographs indicating the progress of the growth.

The subject was discussed by Drs. J. Henry Barbat and H. B. A. Kugeler.

Dr. D. A. Stapler read a paper on "What Causes Appendicitis?" laying particular stress on loss of tissue and subsequent infection.

Dr. Huntington said that while the question had been thrashed out, still the last word had not been spoken or written. Students of the subject always find infection to be the keynote in the matter of the etiology. Further knowledge must come from the laboratory. The doctor read from the published conclusions of Dr. Frasier of Philadelphia. In closing he said foreign substances in the appendix may not do serious damage.

Dr. Rosenstirn said the main question is, whence comes the infection? Is it from presence of foreign body or a result of capillary hemorrhage? We all believe that infection is the cause. He would rather know what microscopic demonstrations prove.

Dr. Hunkin dwelt on the point that more men than women have appendicitis.

Dr. Tait referred to the frequency of capillary

hemorrhages, and said he was convinced that what many will call capillary hemorrhage is simply the direct result of operative manipulation.

Dr. Power said we know constipation attends; may there not be connection between the two?

Dr. Barbat advised early operation. One patient having cervical glands infected he operated and removed appendix, good results. Appendicitis may attack strong as well as weak.

San Joaquin Valley Medical Society.

The San Joaquin Valley Medical Society holds its next annual meeting on the second Tuesday of October, the 13th, at Fresno. The programme for the meeting is not yet announced, but probably it will be quite as good as is usually the case. The Valley Society has an enviable reputation for the quality of the papers presented and for the large attendance at its meetings. The JOURNAL wishes them an even more successful meeting than usual.

Santa Clara County.

Santa Jose, Sept. 16th, 1903.

The stated meeting of the Santa Clara County Medical Society was held this evening. After the transaction of general routine business, Dr. R. A. Whiffin furnished the society with a paper on "Puerperal Septicemia," which was discussed by Drs. Beattie, Saph, Cothran, Paterson, Witter, McNary and Frasee.

Dr. D. F. Beattie said that the prevention of puerperal septicemia is of more importance than its treatment. The prophylactic treatment of a pregnant woman is of prime importance. The vigorous use of the brush and soap to cleanse the hands and the nail cleaner to clean the finger nails is the best means of preparing the hands to care for an obstetric case. Antiseptic solutions, such as bichloride of mercury, carbolic acid, etc., should always be used, but the common way of passing the hands quickly through these solutions is of little use. To get the proper effect, the hands should be immersed in the solution from ten to twenty minutes, according to the antiseptic used. But the thorough preparation of the patient is as necessary as the cleansing of the hands. The parts should be washed with soap and water and sponged with bichloride sol. 1-2000. In many cases it is best to give a creoline douche, or a hot saline douche. In all cases of enema to clear the rectum is essential. Frequent examinations are to be discouraged. After the first examination, in usual cases, nothing is gained. Examinations after the birth should be avoided, if possible, but if necessary it should be done with the same care and preparation as a surgical operation. The bruised or often lacerated vulva, vagina or uterus are in a condition to take up poison. We should be most careful to prepare for any more attention to the patient. If infection has taken place, and curetting has been done, the use of intra-uterine douches of bichloride are not recommended. Creoline, carbolic acid or even sterile water are to be preferred. I prefer to clear the uterus once thoroughly with a dull ring curette, dry it with gauze, and pack lightly with gauze. The gauze brings away any shred or clot that may be left behind. If irrigation is used, care should be taken to hang the douche-bag very little higher than the patient's body. I have only had one case of puerperal septicemia in my practice. It was caused by conditions existing before pregnancy. I used injections of serum antistreptococci and antidiphtheretic, almost in desperation, but could notice no good or bad effect from their use. I have used formalin, but not enough to know much about it. Subcutaneous injections of normal salt solutions are useful. Much depends on the constitutional and local treatment, and the support given the patient by proper food. I forgot to mention the use of Crede's ointment, spread thickly over the abdomen and covered with oiled silk.

Dr. W. K. Davis remarked that the treatment of puerperal infection is fraught with much uncertainty and many disappointments. The intra-uterine douche is accompanied with dangers which should be guarded against. Curetment to displace adherent particles of placenta. I have found at times beneficial, but too much care cannot be taken to prevent injury to the tender and denuded surfaces. The employment of sterile cotton on a carrier, to which the particles will adhere, I have found most satisfactory. But the most important measures are certainly prophylactic. Every avenue through which infection might enter should be carefully

guarded; not only the hands of the physician, but those of the nurse or attendant should be clean and all napkins or compresses sterile. Quinia should be given freely at the beginning of labor and continued for at least ten days in decreasing doses. I believe this remedy to be a great prophylactic. I give my patients six grains when labor begins and repeat this dose in four hours if labor has not terminated. I give three grains three times a day for the first three days, then two grains three times a day for two or three days; after this two grains night and morning for a week. In a practice of twenty years I have not lost a patient from puerperal infection.

Dr. Asay referring to the use of quinia, endorsed the remarks of Dr. Davis as to the value of the drug in such instances, both as a precaution against and a germicide in cases of septic infection. Evidently the therapeutic value of quinia was either ignored through prejudice or not clearly understood by many practitioners.

Dr. H. J. B. Wright said that he believed with Dr. Davis that the administration of quinia to a parturient woman is a good prophylactic measure. It will often jugulate a commencing inflammation as well as assist in the prevention of sepsis. The use of bichloride solutions as an agent to cleanse the uterus is of questionable propriety; it is a very dangerous drug. I have seen terrible results follow its use on the parturient uterus. Let me urge the physicians having cases of confinement under their care to make very few vaginal examinations.

Dr. I. N. Frasse—I know of nothing that makes a physician feel better than to get through with a long and tedious confinement case. A physician, entering the room with some pleasant remark, is shocked at the flushed face, the throbbing temples, rapid breathing and rapidly rising temperature of her who was doing so nicely. "Puerperal infection," says the physician to himself. I think it safer to consider the case one of uterine infection, and to carry out the treatment accordingly, until it has proven to be a trouble less dangerous. I have the patient drawn down to the edge of the bed, her knees separated and her feet placed on chairs. With an antiseptic solution the external genitalia are thoroughly washed off; the bag being only a short distance above the patient, a vaginal douche is then given; next a vaginal speculum is introduced, the antiseptic solution allowed to flow into the vagina and out again through the open speculum; by this method no infection from the vagina or external genitalia is carried into the uterus. A sterilized Lisle thread catheter is now carried through the patulous os and the antiseptic solution permitted to flow while the catheter is moved forward and back the length of the uterine canal to dislodge any clots or other debris. The uterus is then either packed with 10% iodoform gauze, being careful not to cause any traumatism through rough handling, or else a suppository of iodoform is introduced. I have never seen a case of iodoform poisoning follow such treatment and I do not consider a garlicky breath a symptom to be taken into consideration, in so grave a condition. I prefer a weak carbolic-boric acid solution for douching. Should frequent douching be necessary, I would change from one antiseptic to another to avoid absorption from too frequent use of one variety of antiseptic. If the infection is uterine only, there should be a considerable drop of temperature, the temperature remaining pretty well down. If the temperature goes down, but soon rises again, the infection is probably intra-uterine but the infected material has not been removed. I then with all the former precaution, again douche the uterus; and introducing a pair of forceps carefully search for any other substance. The uterus is douched once more and more iodoform gauze, or an iodoform suppository introduced. If the temperature now does not stay down, the infection is probably extra-uterine, and one should look for infection about the uterus; and if an abscess is found it should be promptly opened. I wish to emphasize that the douche bag should be hung only a little higher than the patient; for I have known severe shock and a violent pelvic peritonitis to follow the neglecting of this measure.

Summary:

1. (a) Simple, improved by washing; (b) recurring, improved by washing, temperature again rising due to
2. Perituterine not improved or only slightly by washing, perituterine infection, often going on to abscess formation.

Dr. M. A. Southworth, a member of this society, who a few weeks ago undertook to stop a train of cars by butting into the locomotive on his return from a visit to the County Hospital of which he had charge, and who suffered from broken ribs and other severe injuries by the collision, is now so fully recovered as to be out on the street and visiting his old patients.

J. LAMBERT ASAY, Secy.

Society Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeons.

The spring meeting of the San Francisco Society of Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeons was held with President Dr. Louis C. Deane in the chair.

Dr. Payne read a paper on "The Advantages of Mule's Operation over Simple Enucleation."

The President—The only objection I have to offer is that the Doctor has used the term "simple technique" to cover a large number of interesting facts. I should be pleased to have him go more fully into the subject.

Dr. Payne—The operation should be done with the least possible traumatism. To accomplish this one desirable step in the operation is to keep the eyeball in position by using long steel pins to transfix the sclera just behind the limbus, one pin above and one below. I find the cataract blade best for beginning the amputation of the cornea and a small scissors to complete it. The sclera is emptied with as little violence as possible. By introducing a probe upon the end of which a cotton ball is rolled loosely one engages all the interocular structures by twisting it around, and this torsion empties the sclera completely, unless there has been extensive interocular inflammation, in which case some exudate may be adherent to the sclera and no curettage is required. Hot bichloride solution, 1 to 6000, is sufficient to arrest hemorrhage and sterilize the field.

The glass ball is cleansed with alcohol and left standing in 1 to 3000 bichloride before use. Sometimes the cornea is small and its amputation leaves an opening not large enough to introduce a ball. Here a nick with the scissors on the side admits the ball readily. Careful approximation of the cut edges of the sclera and conjunctiva with silk follows. The sclera heals slowly and requires silk. The sutures remain 10 days and usually most of them cut out by that time. It is a mistake to imbed catgut sutures to bring the scleral wound together. There should be no tension across the glass ball, and still the sclera should be sufficiently filled to keep its form.

Reaction following these operations is great if much violence is used. The lids are carefully replaced over the stump and the orbital opening carefully filled with a cushion of absorbent cotton held in place by a snug bandage. In the first twenty-four hours there will probably be some pain, usually relieved with one hypo. The bandage is not removed until the fourth or fifth day if things go well. The patient can leave the hospital at the end of a week and at the end of two weeks the case is in a very good condition, though not yet ready for the shell.

Dr. Pischel—I have performed Mule's operation only a few times, with good success. But I must confess I am always somewhat afraid of sympathetic inflammation. Regarding the appearance, the hollow artificial eyes, if well made, fulfill all reasonable demands.

Dr. Eaton mentioned the use of paraffin injected into the capsule of Tenon as a substitute for evisceration of the globe.

Dr. Wiborn—I have seen 18 or 20 cases. There were three failures, one excessive reaction from carbolic acid caused the ball to come out, another the globe was a little too large and broke the stitches, and in the third the stitches did not hold, the wound gaped, and for about eight months caused the globe to look like a dilated pupil. The other cases were satisfactory, giving free movement and nice appear-

ance. Reaction is violent when carbolic is used, and ice is necessary for 48 hours or so.

Dr. Nagel—My experience has been with a modification of Mule's operation. I use a silver wire ball instead of the glass ball and I've never had one come out. One of the points in the operation is not to get too large a ball. I have a very favorable opinion of the operation.

Dr. Deane—Much has been said against the Mule's operation, but to me it should rank as one of the classic operations when performed in selected cases. At this evening's meeting thirty-five cases have been reported by several of our members and out of that number only four cases were considered failures.

Dr. Payne—In the cases I selected for the operation there was practically no danger of a sympathetic ophthalmitis. All reported were successful and not one has had any trouble with the stump. So far as I can gather, Mule's operation has not been followed any more often by sympathetic trouble than has enucleation.

Dr. Eaton remarked that the reports on the Mule's operation from various parts of the globe have been antagonistic and the general mass of evidence against it, etc.

Dr. Payne—Dr. Eaton has quoted what the vast experiences of oculists have been. I admit that the reports of isolated cases have been unsatisfactory, many oculists abandoning and condemning the operation after an experience of two or three cases. Dr. Wiborn reports twenty cases with three failures. Two of these were improperly selected for the operation. The point I wish to make is that with care in selecting cases and with greater care in technique our results will be as good as in simple enucleation and a better cosmetic effect obtained.

Yolo County.

The Yolo County Society for Medical Improvement has been organized with Dr. Walter Ernest Bates, Davisville, as president; Dr. T. C. Dixon, Grafton, vice-president; Dr. W. J. Blevins, Woodland, treasurer, and Dr. F. R. Fairchilds, Woodland, secretary. The society starts with eight members on the rolls and five others who have signified their intention to join. At the first meeting it was decided to apply for affiliation in the State Society.

Oregon State Medical Society.

The Oregon State Medical Society held its annual meeting at Portland on the 29th and 30th of September. The JOURNAL has arranged to have the meeting reported and we shall publish a full and special report in our next issue.

STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL SANITARY CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA.

Organization of the Health Officers of California was effected under the above title on the 8th of September, at the meeting called by the State Board of Health for that purpose. Dr. Martin Regensburger was elected president of the newly formed Conference, and Dr. N. K. Foster, secretary of the State Board of Health, was chosen secretary. Dr. Foster made the very wise suggestion that if the meetings were called for the same time and place as the meetings of the State Society, the attendance would undoubtedly be much larger. It was certainly unfortunate that so few (perhaps thirty) of the 150 health officers of the State took the trouble to attend the meeting. W. I. Foley of Los Angeles read a paper "On the Necessity of More Direct Regulation of the Public Health by

the State Under its General Police Power." Antiquated and poor laws, and lack of political interest in things pertaining to public health, were strongly pointed out. The public and the politicians should be educated up to the importance of these matters. This can best be done by a solid organization of the medical profession, making properly directed efforts. Prof. Rising read a paper on "Food Adulteration," which was most timely. A very interesting discussion of the smallpox question and its relations to local and municipal conditions was quite a feature of the meeting. Much can be done if money is available, but there is great difficulty in getting proper appropriations from country authorities and the work that should be done is thus materially hindered. Dr. D. H. Currie read an excellent paper on the subject of "Rats and the Danger of Their Spreading Disease," which will be published in the next issue of the JOURNAL.

MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Boy's Venereal Peril—This is the title of a pamphlet received from Dr. F. C. Valentine of New York, and is an elaboration of a paper read before the last meeting of the A. M. A. In it Dr. Valentine strives to place a statement of the facts relating to puberty, sexual instinct, sexual desire, prostitution, etc., together with those relative to venereal disease and its consequences, before the youth of the land. It is his desire to so prepare a bald and unattractive statement of things which are too often left to the boy to discover for himself, that it may be placed in the hands of the boy or young man and may help to lead him away from vice and to remain clean. That every developing boy should receive just this sort of information at the right time cannot for a moment be disputed. Nor can the wisdom of the effort to get such statements in simple language into the hands of those who should read them be questioned. The only criticism I should make is that Dr. Valentine has largely failed in his purpose by overshooting the mark. He forgets that there are many sorts of boys; many kinds of young men; many good, clean and excellent people who would not agree with him in the statement that a man, to be a man, should neither smoke nor drink alcoholic beverages. He shows a lack of appreciation of relative values in this, and in his remarks anent prostitutes and prostitution; a more intimate knowledge of facts and a more sympathetic appreciation of the real actualities of life would moderate some of these remarks of his and be productive of a better, because a more nearly accurate, presentation of the case. It is to be hoped that further efforts will be made and a still better pamphlet produced.—P. M. J.

Cytolysins in Serum—A report from Drs. Flexner and Noguchi on their investigations of serums, conducted under grant from the Carnegie Institution, at the Pathological Laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania, is published in the July-August number of the *Univ. Penna. Med. Bulletin*. The title is "On the Plurality of Cytolysins in Normal Blood Serum," and the report deals with investigations of the blood of the dog, ox, rattlesnake and mudpuppy. The same publication also contains a kindred paper by these investigators "On the Plurality of Cytolysins in Snake Venom," in which experiments the venoms of cobra, water-moccasin, rattlesnake, daboia and habu were used. The last named snake is Japanese, sent in by Kitasoto, and the daboia, like the cobra, in an Indian

species. "The analysis of venom given . . . indicates an interesting complexity of structure, in virtue of which the solvent action of venom upon different animal cells is shown to be due not to the presence of a single substance, but to a number of principles which are distinct from one another."

The *Journal of Cutaneous Diseases* is the name adopted last month by the Grafton Press, publishers, 70 Fifth Ave., New York, of their journal, which heretofore included in the title, genito-urinary diseases. Dr. A. D. Newborn of New York is the acting editor, with whom are associated eight prominent physicians in different parts of the country.

The publication of a daily medical journal under the editorship of Dr. Albert Warren Ferris, editor of the *Medical Critic*, is projected by the Medical Publishing Company of America, 154 East Seventy-second Street, New York City. It is certainly a large undertaking and at the present time it is difficult to foresee the ready fulfillment of the promises outlined in the prospectus at hand. We wish the promoters every success in their undertaking and we earnestly hope that they may keep themselves and their paper entirely free from the influence of desirable nostrum advertisers, and all other such-like quacks. Those who may desire further information will probably get it by addressing the company as above. The publishers offer to send the *Daily Medical Journal* and the *Medical Critic* to subscribers for one dollar, paid in advance.

Pamphlets and Reprints.

"Hyoscine in the Treatment of Morphinism," by T. D. Crothers, M. D., Hartford, Conn. (Reprinted from *Therapeutic Gazette*.)

"A Pharmacological Study of an Aseptic Preparation of Ergot for Hypodermic and Internal Administration," by E. M. Houghton, Ph. C., M. D., Detroit, Mich. (Reprinted from the *Therapeutic Gazette*.)

Medical Examining Board of New Jersey—The New Jersey examining board now requires academic as well as medical training, for admission to examination. A certificate of four years in a normal or high school of the first grade, or its equivalent in work, is demanded. Some such requisite should be demanded here in California, for the "English" (Heaven save the word!) that appears in some of the examination papers is certainly "fierce"! It is utterly absurd to allow anyone to undertake high grade professional work unless he has had the proper academic as well as professional training.

Liability When Riding on Pass—In the U. S. Circuit Court for the District of Maine, the court, in *Duncan vs. Maine Central Railroad Company*, held that a person riding on a pass given without consideration, and after assenting to the condition that he should assume all risk of accident, and that the carrier should not be liable, cannot recover from the railway for injuries received caused by the negligence of its servants. It was also decided in this case that it was immaterial that the giving of the pass was a breach of the Act to Regulate Commerce.—Abs., from *Railway Journal*.